

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the application of:

Inventor(s) : Tsugio SUDOU  
:  
Serial Number : New  
:  
Filed : December 3, 2003  
:  
For : MAINTENANCE SCHEDULING APPARATUS AND  
: METHOD THEREFOR  
:  
:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER**  
**37 CFR §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

The Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 3, 2003

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56 applicant hereby notifies the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the document which is listed on the attached PTO-1449 form and which the examiner may deem relevant to the patentability of the claims in the above-identified application. One copy of the listed document is submitted herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for the listed foreign language document, applicant respectfully notes that this document is discussed on pages 1 and 2 of the present

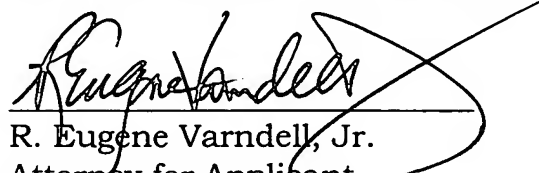
specification. In addition, an English abstract of this document is attached thereto.

It is respectfully requested that the examiner initial or otherwise mark one copy of form PTO-1449A and forward the same to the applicants indicating that the documents listed thereon have been considered.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which may become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,  
VARNDELL & VARNDELL, PLLC  
(formerly Varndell Legal Group)



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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with excommunication to applicant.

- <sup>1</sup> Applicants unique citation designation number (optional).  
<sup>2</sup> See Kinds of Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.  
<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3).  
<sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.  
<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16, if possible.  
<sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached, where "P" means a partial translation, such as an abstract.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	NEW (filed herewith)
				Filing Date	December 3, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Tsugio SUDOU
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	VX032578

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with excommunication to applicant.

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